CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

o. 53 December 22nd, 1959.

xchange of Clergymen Between Germany and Denmark.

According to the "Kristeligt Dagblad", Copenhagen, theologians rom the Northern and North-German Lutheran Churches taking part in conference at Lübeck have advocated an exchange between Germany and candinavian Lutheran Churches of young clergymen. Direct negotiations between the individual churches will now be taken up.

At the conference the new Bishop of Helsinki (Helsingfors), Finland, ishop Martti Simojoki, recommended a closer co-operation between the hurches of Germany and the Norghern countries and suggested the establishment of a Northern regional committee within the Lutheran World ederation. Professor Regin Prenter, Denmark, emphasized the common haracteristics of the German and the Northern folk churches in relation to the young Lutheran Churches in other continents and to American utheranism.

Bishop Heinrich Meyer, Lübeck, stressed the point of justification y faith alone as being the special contribution of the Lutheran Churches o the fellowship of the Churches and proposed that it should be the main heme at the General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Helsinki (Helsingfors), Finland, in 1963.

Northern Methodist Missionary Conference.

Last month 30 leaders of the Methodist missions met for a Northern conference at Fredrikstad, Norway, under the chairmanship of Bishop Odd Hagen. The main point of discussion was the readjustment from mission to church on the mission fields of the Methodist Church in Africa and the Far East, but a number of topical problems, such as the impending integration between the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, among others, were also dealt with.

DENMARK

Y.M.C.A. Centre on the Premises of Denmark's Biggest Industrial Concern.

In co-operation with the social section of the Y.M.C.A. the Managing Director of Denmark's biggest concern "Danfoss", on the island of Als, Mr. Mads Clausen, plans to build a workers' centre. At the moment both the "Danfoss" works and a big toy-factory, "Lego" at Billund, employ Y.M.C.A. secretaries who act as social advisers, conduct devotions and Bible classes, arrange sports events and courses, etc. Moreover, the "Danfoss" concern will shortly have its own factory pastor as the Rector of Nordborg has promised that the main job of his assistant curate will be work among the workers and employees at "Danfoss".

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Gyster Egesborg pr Mern, Denmark

Conference of Clergymen Between Germany and Denmark.

According to the "Kristeligt Dagblad", Copenhagen, theologians from the Northern and North-German Lutheran Churches have had a conference at Lübeck have advocated an exchange between Germany and Scandinavian Lutheran Churches of young clergymen. Direct negotiations between the individual churches will now be taken up.

At the conference the new Bishop of Helsinki (Helsingfors), Mikael Bishop Martti Simojoki, recommended a closer co-operation between the churches of Germany and the Nordern countries and suggested the establishment of a Northern regional committee within the Lutheran World Federation. Professor Regin Prenter, Denmark, emphasized the common characteristics of the German and the Northern Folk churches in relation to the young Lutheran Churches in other continents and so American Lutheranism.

Bishop Heinrich Meyer, Lübeck, stressed the point of justification by faith alone as being the special contribution of the Lutheran Churches to the fellowship of the Churches and proposed that it should be the main theme at the General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Helsinki (Helsingfors), Finland, in 1963.

Northern Methodist Missionary Conference.

Last month 30 leaders of the Methodist missions met for a Northern Conference at Frodkilstad, Norway, under the chairmanship of Bishop Odd Hagen. The main point of discussion was the readjustment from mission to church on the mission fields of the Methodist Church in Africa and the Far East, but a number of topical problems, such as the impending integration between the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, among others, were also dealt with.

DENMARK

U.M.C.A. Centre on the Premises of "Dansk" a Biscuit Industrial Concern.

In co-operation with the social section of the U.M.C.A. the Managing Director of Denmark's biggest concern "Danfoss", on the island of Als, Mr. Mads Clausen, plans to build a workers' centre. At the moment both the "Danfoss" works and a big toy-factory, "Lego" at Billund, employ U.M.C.A. secretaries who act as social advisers, conduct devotions and "Danfoss" concern will shortly have its own factory pastor. The Rector of Nordborg has promised that his main job of his assistant curate will be work among the workers and employees at "Danfoss".

irst Roman-Catholic Hymn-Book in the Language of the Faroe Islands.

The first Roman-Catholic hymn-book and prayer-book in the language f the Faroe Islands, compiled by the Roman-Catholic priest in Thorshavn, ather Palle Burla, has now been published. Besides texts for the per- anent parts of the Mass, an instruction for confession, and a number of rayers the book contains 89 hymns in the language of the Islands. They re partly translations of Danish Roman-Catholic hymns from the Northern ountries, and finally a number of original hymns from the Faroe Isles.

The Roman-Catholic congregation in the Faroe Isles numbers 50 members.

he Bishops Appoint Consultant for Church Plays.

The Bishops in the Danish Lutheran National Church have appointed ev. N.J. Rald, Copenhagen, consultant in matters relating to church lays. For many years Mr. Rald has occupied himself with church plays n the different capacities of author, translator, critic, and active mateur performer. The new consultant is supposed to be available with dvice and direction in cases of doubt, thus, it is hoped, helping to chieve a certain standard of church plays.

Chapel in New College for Undergraduates at Aarhus.

At present a collection is taking place for the erection of a new ollege for undergraduates at Aarhus and, due to the wish of a number of student organizations, the building will also contain a chapel to be sed for special services and devotions for undergraduates. Several hristian student organizations, among them the Baptist and the Roman- atholic Student Associations, have started a special collection for the hapel. The architect will be the same as for the rest of the college, viz. Mr. C.E. Møller, University Architect, who has also made the draw- ings for one of the new churches in Aarhus. As the chapel is to be sed for the services of several different denominations, there are ertain ecumenical problems to be considered in connection with the furnishing of the chapel.

News in Brief:

- In a resolution addressed to the Minister of Education 175 leaders of the "Young Homes" Movement in Denmark which, taking its stand on the Lutheran Confession, invites young married couples for discussions on religious and social-ethical matters, earnestly plead for a favourable placing of religious education in the new school curriculum.

- Next month the eighth woman pastor in the Danish Lutheran National Church, Miss Alice Jeppesen, Divinity Graduate, will be ordained in the Cathedral of Aarhus by Bishop Skat Hoffmeyer. Miss Jeppesen is to be assistant curate in Horsens.

Please Note:

The statistics relating to church life in Copenhagen, given in the last number of Church News (pp.1-2), refer to the Lutheran National Church only and not to the Free Church communities.

FINLAND

Remarkable Speech by the President of Finland.

At the enthronement service last month of Bishop Martti Simojoki as Bishop of the newly established Diocese of Helsinki (Helsingfors) the President of the Republic, Dr. Urho Kekkonen, gave a remarkable speech in which he said, among other things:

"With grateful hearts we here in Finland note that the Church in our country, all through the changing times, has firmly maintained the stand inherited from our ancestors. While conditions after the War have resulted in changes in practically all spheres of life, the Church has retained its own working possibilities and methods. Since the War the activities of the Church have been followed with greater attention and approval by the State authorities than before which, among other things, is evident from the fact that two new dioceses have been established during the last decade. During hardly any other period in the history of the Church in Finland has its management been enlarged to such an extent as during these ten years. The State authorities have not done this only to make Church administration more effective, but also in the hope that the Church thus may be better able to fulfil its mission of directing people in their decicions of eternal importance."

The President then mentioned the ever increasing industrialization and the new tasks facing the Church in a society of changing structure. "The Church must be organically linked up with the problems of people living in this kind of society. I am convinced that the Bishop of the new Diocese of Helsinki (Helsingfors) is familiar with these problems and I know that in his high office he will act in such a way that the work of the Church comes into true contact with people."

New Order of Service in the Lutheran Church.

As from the First Sunday in Advent this year a new order of service, decided upon at the Church Assembly last year, has been introduced in the Lutheran National Church of Finland. The changes are not very remarkable compared to the usual order of service, but greater importance is attached to the liturgic parts of the service and to the part played by the congregation in the liturgy.

The new service-book contains texts for Introits and antiphonal singing for each Sunday in the year. There are several changes with regard to the sermon texts so that they correspond better to the various Sundays of the church year. Each Sunday has been given its own special heading, referring to the text of the day. A closer resemblance to the forms of service used in the ancient church and in that of Reformation times has been attempted in the whole order of service.

The new service-book also includes a fourth wedding ritual to be used by ministers who for reasons of conscience do not want to use any of the present rituals when marrying divorced persons, something which clergymen in the Lutheran National Church of Finland, as well as in Sweden, are obliged to do according to the Law.

Bishop Rosenqvist Optimistic with Regard to the Future.

At the commencement of the new church year the Bishop of the Swedish Diocese in Finland, Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist, has been interviewed by the "Åbo Underrättelser". In the interview the Bishop takes an optimistic view with regard to the future of the Church in the nation and, in this connection, refers to the fact, among other things, that also people outside actively engaged church circles take part in the congregational drives in great numbers. The Bishop further wholeheartedly supports the present efforts for making parochial councils more aware of their responsibilities and more active in church life. In former days one founded a club or association whenever one wanted something done in the Church, but this is no longer possible at a time when people are growing tired of associations. In this situation an active contribution by a parochial council may be of immense importance to the activity of the whole congregation.

In the course of the conversation Bishop Rosenqvist also said that the two Christian youth organizations "Kyrkans Ungdom" and "Evangeliska Unga" who until now have been rather far apart, in as much as the "Evangeliska Unga" felt more at home in the revivalist movement than in the Church, both have decided to support the Church Rally to be held in June next year for the Swedish speaking Diocese.

Dictionary in Luther's German Language.

The recently deceased Finnish rural dean, Rev. A.E. Koskenniemi, left behind the material for a dictionary of 950 pages in which he has translated German expressions of Luther into modern German. The "Luther-Agricola-Sällskapet" has asked Mr. Horst Benkter, Senior Lecturer, Greifswald, to go through the book together with a language specialist, and the German Democratic Republik has granted Mr. Benkter a stipend for the same purpose.

The "Böhlau Verlag" have agreed to publish the work on certain conditions, and it is expected that the book will prove to be of great value to international Luther-researches.

Youth Exchange Between Finland and Germany.

Miss Hildegard Lämmerhirdt, belonging to the Westphalian National Church, has visited Finland with a view to prepare an exchange of young people from Evangelical homes in Finland and Germany next summer. Besides school pupils the exchange will include young people from business life. A committee consisting of representatives of school authorities, the Church, and teachers will be in charge of the exchange in Finland.

News in Brief:

- Last month the Y.M.C.A. in Finland which was founded by, among others, the author and Government Minister Zacharias Topelius, celebrated its 70-years' anniversary by a function at the University of Helsinki (Helsingfors) in the presence of President Urho Kekkonen.

- Professor of Church History, Mr. Wolfgang Schmidt, Turku (Åbo) and also, among other things, a member of the National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, has died, 55 years old.

- Member of the Finnish Parliament, Rev. Johannes Wirtanen, has died, 61 years of age.

- The "Spiritual Days" for disabled soldiers at Pori (Björneborg) last month were attended by no less than 400 ex-servicemen from all parts of the country.

NORWAY

Diakonia Council Established in the Norwegian Church.

A Diakonia Council has been established in the National Lutheran Church in Norway which is to be the co-ordinating organ of all Diakonia activities in the Church. This step was decided at the Joint Diocesan Council Meeting held in Oslo from 16th - 19th November. The Joint Council Meeting takes place every fourth year and, comprising as it does 45 members, it is the most comprehensive joint organ of the Church.

Proposals for the establishment of such a Diakonia Council have been put forward before, but without success. A joint meeting of various Diakonia institutions have now unanimously agreed to apply for a joint

In the course of the conversation, Bishop Ronnerydahl also said that the two Christian youth organizations "Kyrkans Ungdom" and "Evangeliska Fosterlandsstiftelsen" who have been resisting Lay Apostolate, in as much as the Evangeliska Unga" felt more at home in the revivalist movements than in the Church, both have decided to support the Church Rally to be held some time next year for the Swedish speaking Dioceses.

Lutheran Literature in Publishers' German Language.

The recently deceased Finnish rural dean, Rev. A.E. Koskenniemi, left behind the material for a dictionary of 950 pages in which he has translated German expressions of Luther into modern German. The "Luther-Sprachschlüssel" has asked Mr. Horst Berkner, Senior Lecturer, Berlitz-School, to go through the book together with a German specialist, and the German Democratic Republik has granted Mr. Berkner a stipend for the same purpose.

The "Böhlau Verlag" have agreed to publish the work on certain conditions, and it is expected that the book will prove to be of great value to international Luther-researches.

Youth Exchange Between Finland and Germany.

Miss Hildegard Lämmerhirt, belonging to the Westphalian National Church, has visited Finland with a view to prepare an exchange of young people from Evangelical homes in Finland and Germany next summer. Besides school pupils the exchange will include young people from business life. A committee consisting of representatives of school authorities, the Church, and teachers will be in charge of the exchange in Finland.

News in Brief:

Last month the Y.M.C.A. in Finland which was founded by, among others, the author and Government Minister Zacharias Topelius, celebrated its 70-years' anniversary by a function at the University of Helsinki (Helsingfors) in the presence of President Dr. Kyösti Kallio.

Professor of Church History, Mr. Wolfgang Schmidt, Turku (Åbo) and also, among other things, a member of the National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, has died, 55 years old.

Member of the Finnish Parliament, Rev. Johannes Virtanen, has died, 71 years of age.

The "Spiritual Days" for classical soldiers at Porl (Björneborg) last month were attended by no less than 1500 ex-servicemen from all parts of the country.

NORWAY

Diakonia Council Established in the Norwegian Church.

A Diakonia Council has been established in the National Lutheran Church in Norway which is to be the co-ordinating organ of all Diakonia activities in the Church. This step was decided at the Joint Diaconal Council Meeting held in Oslo from 16th - 19th November. The Joint Council Meeting takes place every fourth year and, comprising as it does 45 members, it is the most comprehensive joint organ of the Church.

Proposals for the establishment of such a Diakonia Council have been put forward before, but without success. A joint meeting of various Diakonia institutions have now unanimously agreed to apply for a joint

anagement and, in spite of considerable divergencies of opinion at the oint Diocesan Council Meeting, it was decided, as mentioned above, o establish a Diakonia Council with 15 members.

ther Important Resolutions at the Joint Diocesan Council Meeting.

The Joint Diocesan Council Meeting, taking place from November 6th - 19th and described as "the Parliament of the Norwegian Lutheran ational Church", passed a number of important resolutions.

An all-round Church Committee on Education to act as an advisory oard in all matters connected with religious instruction was set up. hairman of the committee is Bishop Karl Marthinussen.

In a statement emphasizing the great importance of Sunday schools n the life of the Church, the Norwegian Sunday School Union was re- uested to set up a commission for examining the need and the possi- ilities of Sunday schools in the service of the Church.

The Joint Meeting thanked the Norwegian teachers for their work n the schools in general and for their contributions to the teaching f religion in particular. An application to the Government Department or Church and Education requests that morning devotions in the schools, onsisting of hymns and prayers - or either - be retained in the new urriculum now being prepared, and that the religious instruction is ot cut down. Finally it requests the inclusion of religious instruction n the curriculum of vocational schools for young people also.

The Joint Diocesan Council Meeting considered in detail the po- ition of the instruction for confirmation in the new Norwegian Education ct and agreed upon a number of points at which it wanted to be con- ulted. A committee headed by the Rev. Dagfinn Hauge is to continue orking on these questions.

he Bishops' Conference Appointed Students' Pastor in Oslo.

The Bishops' Conference of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church as appointed Rev. Alex Johnson students' pastor in Oslo as from Ja- uary 1st next. The new students' pastor will not be attached to any f the Christian student organizations, but will come directly under the ishop of Oslo and a Students' Pastor Council consisting of 5 members.

The question of a special students' pastor in the Norwegian Church as been much discussed. Some people were afraid that it might lead to ompetition with the Christian student organizations, one of which em- loys several clergymen, and of these, one in Oslo. At the appoint- ent of Rev. Alex Johnson, however, the daily paper "Vårt Land" in slo expresses the hope that a "natural co-existence" may be the out- ome.

ermission for Laymen to Assist in Administering Holy Communion?

In a letter to the Government Department for Church and Education he Norwegian Bischops' Conference has proposed that clergymen in con- regational work should be allowed, in agreement with the parochial ouncil, to nominate laymen as assistants when administering Holy ommunion. Normally such assistants should be local laymen in the arish, but at rallies, for instance, it is suggested that a clergymen hould be free to ask people from other parishes to assist.

Atomic War a Greater Disaster than Subjugation.

In a recent lecture entitled "Ethical Evaluation of Nuclear Weapons" at the Norwegian Church Academy in Oslo Professor Johan Hygen denounced the use of atomic weapons under any form as being indefensible from a Christian point of view and advocated a one-sided disarmament if an agreement about mutually controlled disarmaments could not be reached.

The Professor maintained that the defence of neither material, cultural, nor religious values could justify an atomic war, and as for the nuclear power balance in the "cold war" he emphasized that the purely psychological effect of mutual fear might lead to aggression.

Professor Hygen quite realized that a one-sided Western disarmament might, at worst, result in a Soviet-Russian expansion towards the West. It would mean a political, a moral, and a cultural catastrophe, but the speaker felt that the moral and religious attitude of the West would be so powerful as to be able to stand up to it. He raised the question of which would be worst: the dangers involved in atomic warfare or Communism? and answered: "A nuclear war would be a greater catastrophe than even a harsh subjugation."

The lecture has been widely discussed and commented upon by, among others, the Christian daily paper in Oslo "Vårt Land" which feels that the very balance of nuclear power is the only hope of continued freedom for the West. According to the papper a one-sided disarmament would mean a "Munich" on a world-wide scale.

Dr. Birkeli on the Norwegian Attitude to Integration.

In a leader in the "Norsk Missionstidende" the Secretary General of the Norwegian Missionary Society, Dr. Fridtjov Birkeli, gives an interesting commentary on the attitude of the Norwegian Missionary Council to the question of integration between the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. As may be remembered, the Norwegian Missionary Council is against such an integration.

Dr. Birkeli, who himself spoke against the integration at the conference in Ghana, being convinced that the International Missionary Council still has an independent task to fulfil, refutes the assertion often heard in Norway that the International Missionary Council should be less liberally minded than the World Council of Churches. Except for the Greek-Orthodox members there are largely the same people who are members of the two organizations, he writes. And in answer to the allegation that the confessional basis of the World Council of Churches is too weak, Dr. Birkeli points out that the International Missionary Council has none at all. Finally, as regards the misgivings in connection with the obligations of the members of the World Council of Churches, there is no difference between the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. Neither organization can bind its members. Personally, Dr. Birkeli still feels that it would be better to keep the International Missionary Council, but he realizes that an integration must come, especially on account of the wishes of the young Asiatic Churches. And the Secretary General apparently does not find the reason for the Norwegian "no" tenable: "The International Missionary Council has no cleaner hands than the World Council of Churches. We must find other arguments in favour of our standpoint", he writes.

Quoting extracts of the article the weekly of the Oslo Home Mission "Vår Kirke" remarks that it will give occasion for a debate among prominent Norwegian Home Mission members and expresses the hope that it will be possible to arrive at a new orientation so that Norway will not remain outside the international missionary work at the time of actual integration.

News in Brief:

- In connection with the World Refugee Year the Norwegian Refugee Council, comprising all the relief organizations taking part in refugee work, has collected about 12 million Norwegian crowns in a number of special drives during the autumn.

- The 31-years old Norwegian theologian, Dr. Per Lønning, who received the degree of Doctor of Divinity some years ago on a thesis on Søren Kierkegaard, was made Doctor of Philosophy last month on a thesis on Blaise Pascal. Dr. Lønning is a Member of "Stortinget" (Parliament) and an energetic contributor to church debates in Norway.

- On behalf of the Almadya-Movement Mr. Kamal Yuosuf from Pakistan has obtained permission from the Norwegian authorities for erecting a mosque at Höybråten near Oslo. The mosque is to serve as the centre of Moslem missionary activities in the Northern countries. So far there are only about ten Mohammedans in Norway.

SWEDEN

Government Appeals to Voluntary Organizations.

At a meeting last month in the Parliament Building the Swedish Government issued a strong appeal to the voluntary youth organizations to join in with the public organs in a common endeavour on behalf of the youth. The reason for this appeal was a report recently completed on the campaign against youth delinquency and a proposal contained therein for a Government youth council.

Prime Minister Tage Erlander opened the conference and explained the Government move by saying that, faced with the task of solving the youth problems of the nation, all religious and political partition walls must fall. The voluntary organizations are needed in a joint effort since they are in touch with 2/3 of all the young people, and the Prime Minister promised that no rules would be laid down nor any interference in their work be attempted - but rather the creation of conditions encouraging continued voluntary efforts.

In her speech, Mrs. Ulla Lindström, Minister, emphasized that the organizations aiming at a direct personal influence of the young would be of the utmost importance in a future joint effort in solving the youth problems.

Occasioned by a debate in Parliament on youth problems the Free Church Joint Committee immediately prior to the conference in the Parliament Building decided to launch a nation-wide campaign aiming at helping all homes with teen-age youngsters in their difficult task of bringing them up to be good citizens. The campaign, which is to be conducted by the local Free Church organizations, will concentrate mainly on information about moral and ethical matters. A special committee, made up of representatives of the various Free Church organizations, has been set up, and the campaign is expected to be the largest enterprise ever undertaken by the Free Churches jointly.

First Free Church Conference on Church Erection.

Last month the first Free Church erection was held at Bromma near Stockholm and was surrounded by such interest that a continuation may be expected. The conference was arranged by the "Frikyrkliga Studieförbundet" and was expected to be attended by about 50 members, but almost

three times as many - architects, artists, artisans and other prominent laymen and clergymen took part in the conference. Among others, such topics as the relationship between preaching and architecture and between the interior and furnishings of the church room, and the question about what a modern church building may contain besides accommodation for Sunday services, were dealt with in lectures and ensuing discussions.

An exhibition of models and drawings for completed and present church building projects was shown in connection with the conference.

Jazz Concert Instead of Morning Prayers.

Some time ago the "morning session" in a secondary school in Malmö consisted of a jazz concert which has caused both attention and indignation in wide circles.

A year ago the supreme school authorities in Sweden changed the name of "morning prayers", with which each day in the public schools must begin, to "morning session" and gave permission for including secular items also. The instructions said, however, that the morning session should be of dignified nature and help to create "inner concentration, edification, and a feeling of fellowship, thus making it a good starting point for the day's work".

Certain sections of the Press, the "Jönköping-Posten" for instance, take the concert in Malmö as an indication that the development goes in the direction of a clearly atheistic type of Swedish school. Other comments, such as for instance one by Bishop Bo Giertz describe the incident as an example of the unreasonable consequences of the Government policy of compromise: on the one hand to avoid removing the Christian character of the school; on the other, to meet the wishes of non-Christian parents.

Dissatisfaction with the Ecumenical Atomic-Weapons Report.

The composition of the study-group set up by the Swedish Ecumenical Committee on International Affairs (a joint organ of the Swedish Ecumenical Council and the Swedish Missionary Council) for examining the question of atomic weapons has been severely criticized from several sides. As mentioned in the last number of Church News the members of the Committee recently published the result of their studies in a book called "Kärnvapen?" (Nuclear Weapons?) from which it appears that 6 of its 7 members are in favour of nuclear weapons while only one, a pacifist, is against. It is pointed out, among other things, that the Committee did not include representatives of the general view that defence employing traditional, but not nuclear weapons, is permissible. The Committee maintains that the book should not be regarded as an expression of the standpoint of the Swedish Ecumenical Council and that it was intended as a contribution to the debate and an inspiration for further discussions on the problems.

In a letter to the member churches and organizations the Swedish Ecumenical Council has recommended the book for study in the congregations and has stressed that the Council as such has not taken any standpoint with regard to the opionions expressed in the book. The book is to be considered as a material for continued study.

Conference on Christian Faith and Municipal Work.

Last month 150 municipal public servants who are also members of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church in the province of Skaraborg met for a conference at Skövde at which the relation between the Christian faith and public work was discussed. Several speakers touched on the

conflict sometimes arising between Party discipline and individual freedom of conscience.

The conference aroused such interest that it will probably be continued on a later occasion.

Free Church Communities Widen their Contact with the Schools.

In accordance with a recent decision by the Free Church Joint Committee at a meeting in Stockholm the Swedish Free Churches will now further widen their contacts with secondary schools and other institutions for higher education.

At the moment there are 50 places with secondary schools where certain ministers are charged with the special responsibility of keeping in touch with the schools, and at the Committee meeting it was resolved to nominate such ministers in still 30 additional places. About 12 ministers were immediately appointed at the meeting.

News in Brief.

- Bishop Nils Bolander, Lund, died suddenly at the age of 57. Bishop Bolander, who was consecrated in November, 1958, was also well-known as poet.

- At its meeting last month the Swedish branch of the Evangelical Alliance elected Mr. Samuel Nyström, Mission Secretary, Stockholm, as new President.

- The Swedish Mission Covenant Church plans for a 6-weeks' evangelical drive in Stockholm next summer. The main speaker will be the "Crusade Minister", Rev. John Hedlund, and 3,500 laymen are expected to take an active part in the drive.

- 30,000 people have now visited the mission exhibition shown in 65 parishes in the Diocese of Stockholm. After New Year's day the exhibition will be moved to the Diocese of Västerås.

- At a conference at Lejondal last month the Swedish Faith and Order Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ansgar Eeg-Olofsson, Senior Lecturer, has discussed the results of research work carried out by various sections of the Faith and Order movement,